

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RECOMMENDATION No. R (84) 21

OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES ON THE ACQUISITION BY REFUGEES OF THE NATIONALITY OF THE HOST COUNTRY

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 14 November 1984
at the 377th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members ;

Recalling its Resolution (70) 2 of 26 January 1970 on the acquisition by refugees of the nationality of their country of residence, whereby it forwarded to the governments of member states Recommendation 564 (1969) of the Consultative Assembly, inviting them to take such action upon it as they were able ;

Remaining convinced that the acquisition of the nationality of the host country by refugees who wish to do so and by their children constitutes the most effective means of ensuring their integration in that country ;

Recognising that considerations pertaining to the reduction of cases of multiple nationality should not be an obstacle to the acquisition by refugees of the nationality of the host country ;

Considering the provisions of Articles 25 and 34 of the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951 on the status of refugees,

Recommends that the governments of member states :

i. Consider the fact of being a refugee as a favourable element for the purposes of the procedure for granting nationality, and make use in the case of refugees of the possibilities afforded by their legislation, for example for reducing the required period of residence, reducing charges arising out of the procedure for the granting of nationality or the duration thereof, and of any other means of facilitating refugees' acquisition of their nationality ;

ii. Take steps to ensure that :

— for the children of refugees, whether born in the host country without acquiring the nationality of that country at birth, or born elsewhere, if they have been habitually resident in that country for a considerable length of time, the acquisition of the nationality of the country of their residence upon coming of age be facilitated ;

— if a refugee parent acquires the nationality of the host country, his or her minor dependent children present in that country are able to acquire simultaneously that nationality ;

iii. If they have not yet done so, consider the possibility of ratifying the New York Convention of 30 August 1961 on the reduction of statelessness and the Berne Convention of 13 September 1973 aiming at the reduction of the number of cases of statelessness.